

FLYING SAUCER DIGEST

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“FLYING HUMANOID” FLAP HITS CHICAGO – by M. J. Banias



What goes through a person's mind when they come face to face with a monster? Over the last two months, a handful of Chicago locals are now able to answer that question.

On April 7th, a witness came forward to report the sighting of a large seven foot tall bat-like humanoid in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago. Sparking a reaction, many witnesses have begun to come forward with their own experiences. About fifteen sightings of a “flying humanoid” have been reported in the Chicago area.

The winged being, according to some witnesses, bears a resemblance to the famous Mothman of Point Pleasant, WV, while others have described it as more bat-like in appearance. One researcher argues that it is probably just a large owl. While testimony concerning the appearance of this creature varies, one recurring theme seems to be consistent; the feeling of dread and doom that comes over the witnesses, and the sense that tragedy lies in its wake.

Enter Lon Strickler, an expert in the field of cryptids and founder of the popular website, *Phantoms and Monsters*. He has received multiple reports concerning the recent rash of sightings in Chicago and has been thoroughly investigating each one.

In an interview with *Mysterious Universe*, Strickler pointed to two sightings on his website that he states are the most compelling. The most recent incident, on June 3rd, occurred in the Lincoln Park area around 10:00 p.m. local time. The couple, who wishes to remain anonymous, just finished a late dinner and were out for a walk when they saw the strange being. According to the report: “[it was] a 7-8 foot solid black humanoid with wide membrane wings, that resembled those of a huge bat. The wingspan was at least 12 ft. The head was prominent, and thinner than a human head. The back end of the body tapered to a point. No legs were noticed, but could have been tucked up under the body. The figure was gliding quickly along the length of the street heading east, then suddenly ascended into the night sky. Neither heard any sound. Both witnesses told [Strickler] that they felt a sense of foreboding and were still terrified almost an hour after the encounter.

The second interesting case is an earlier sighting which occurred on March 22nd to a local truck driver and Chicago local, Billy Bantz. With the help of Strickler, *Mysterious Universe* was able to secure an interview. Bantz was delivering a shipment when he noticed something strange in the air: It looked like a flying Batmobile. I was sitting in my semi-trailer at around noon. I saw this object coming from Route 55 and Cicero. I saw it gliding, and, not too fast. No sound. I saw that it was not a drone, and the size of a large car. It climbed higher and turned twice...I can tell you it that it glided fast like a bird. It went almost straight up and I lost it in the clouds.”

Bantz believes that this incident has affected his life. According to Bantz, "The more I speak of this, the worse my luck becomes. My mom died three weeks ago...I am not sure what to think at this point."

Bantz, like the many other people who reported seeing a strange flying humanoid over Chicago, just wants to know what is going on.

As reports continued to come in over the months of April, May and June, hosts Vance Nesbitt and Jennifer Ann of the fledgling paranormal podcast, "The Acrylic Ranch", went out on their own night investigations to try and catch footage of the monster. While they did experience some odd battery drains on their equipment, nothing conclusive was found. However, Ann believes there may be an eight-day pattern to these sightings, "The way the dates are falling. I am going to guess that the next sighting will be either on June 14th or 18th. It could be a feeding pattern..."

In his interview, Strickler was unsure why Chicago specifically was experiencing a "flap" of flying humanoid sightings, however, he did state, "There are many opinions as to why these sightings are occurring, including a general feeling that unfortunate events may be in the city's future."

While nothing is certain, Strickler does believe something is lurking in the shadows of Chicago, and that it is an ill omen. "At this point, I feel that this being may be attempting to distinguish a connection between locales within the city and future events. The witnesses have been very steadfast with what they have seen, and refuse to embellish on their initial descriptions. Each witness has had a feeling of dread and foreboding, which I believe translates into a warning of some type."

As Strickler continues his hunt for the elusive being; only time and more sighting reports will shed light on this story. While this may be nothing more than a giant owl looking for a new home, which seems the most reasonable hypothesis, many of the witness reports clearly describe a humanoid figure. Is this the return of Mothman, here to warn Chicago locals of some impending tragedy? Or is it another cryptid drawn from a deep-seated cultural lore, not only haunting the skies but the minds of people as well?

Every monster will have its hunters, but more importantly, the legend that monster leaves behind. For every sighting reported, and every article written, the legend of Chicago's flying creature will continue to grow. The stories woven together bring life to our deepest fears, regardless of facts and truth. Everyone loves a good monster story, so long as it remains just a story. Source: "Mysterious Universe" June 7, 2017.

OVAL UFO SPOTTED OVER WASHINGTON

Oakesdale, Washington – 8/2/17 - "Object seen around Steptoe Butte, at about 11:43 p.m. I went outside my house to turn my sprinkler off for the night. After had done so I could hear a very loud hum. I looked to the sky facing southwest and I could see 20 to 25 white lights going in a clockwise motion across the sky.

"The lights were attached to something very large and were blinking in a clockwise sequence around an object. The area that these lights covered took up most of the horizon. The area around the lights was totally blacked out, you could see no stars or the moon at all.

"While I watched the object and lights, it did not appear to be moving. If it was moving it appeared to be doing so very slowly. The loud humming sound was definitely coming from the direction of the lights. It was a very odd sound, not like an airplane. The sound was more like a pulsing hum, but very loud. In fact, you could feel the vibration from the sound.

"After watching the object for a couple of minutes, I ran and got my Dad out of bed so he could see this as well. My Dad brought his cell phone with him so we could try to film this. My Dad also was able to witness the object as well.

"We watched this thing for another minute or two as it began to travel to the northwest away from us. We were able to see the lights still going in a clockwise sequence around the object until it faded out of our view." Source: "UFO Casebook" September 26, 2017.

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POLICE OFFICER SEES STRANGE CREATURE IN PENNSYLVANIA – by Stan Gordon

On an evening in late August, 2017, a police officer riding down a road in a wooded location in a southwestern section of Westmoreland County, PA saw something that startled him. Ahead of him on the side of the road, the officer observed what appeared to be a ball of very dull white light low to the ground. He was familiar with the area and had never noticed any type of lighting in that location. As he moved closer and was about 50 yards from the round light, it suddenly rose up or stood up from the ground.

It was then that the witness observed something that he couldn't process. The officer told me, "it was the weirdest thing I have ever seen." The ball of light was actually the head of a very strange being that looked to be about 6 feet tall or larger. It was tall and almost skeleton thin. The officer was of the opinion that the creature when he first observed it, had been lying on its belly on the ground with its head facing toward the road. It then stood up facing the road. In that dark location, he saw the dull light from the glowing head illuminating the upper section of the body of the creature.

While the officer watched, the creature turned toward the right. The dull illumination from the head lit up the shoulder area. The creature then turned and faced him, then turned to the left and took off at an incredible speed away towards a location away from the road. As it moved off, the witness could see its arms swinging. The officer indicated that it took off at a speed that you could only call abnormal. "It was faster than anything I have ever seen. It was there, then it was gone." The witness assumed that the creature moved on two legs, however, he could not see the lower sections of the body in the dark.

The witness described what he saw as standing 6 feet or taller. The head was about 8-10 inches in diameter and shaped like a ball. He said the head was just a ball of light, possibly egg shaped but pretty round. The light emitted seemed to be just a dull white. The light illuminated the shoulders, the top of the chest and a section of the arms. The witness could not see the hands. The chest looked to be about 18 inches across. The waist appeared to be small, but the arms were abnormally long. The long limbs looked skeletal with no muscle mass. The skin tone of the body appeared to be dull grayish-blue. The witness could not see any facial features.

The entire experience only lasted about 10 seconds. The officer was confused as to what he saw and about what could move so fast. He pulled up his vehicle to the location where the creature had been standing and turned on his vehicle spotlight. He looked around the area but saw no evidence on the ground. The officer, after the experience, continued to try to make sense out of what he had encountered but he could not figure it out. I was contacted soon after the incident and we later discussed the incident in detail. Source: "Stan Gordon's UFO Anomalies Zone" August 30, 2017.

BIGFOOT BOOKLET FROM FSD NOW IN STOCK

In conjunction with our 50th anniversary celebration, our latest publication is a revised edition of our 1992 look at the Bigfoot mystery as seen through the popular media in those years. *FSD's Bigfoot Reader* features accounts of this mysterious being from all parts of the United States, as well as other similar upright walking beasts from other parts of the globe. It also offers reasoned speculation about the origin of these creatures and the fact that so far no specimens have been found and recognized by science. There are also illustrations of witness reports as well as a distribution map of reported Bigfoot sightings.

FSD's Bigfoot Reader is now in stock and ready to ship for \$10.00 postpaid. Please make checks payable to Rick Hilberg and send to: Bigfoot, 377 Race St. Berea, Ohio 44017.

"MINI-UFO" HOVERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

This incident occurred on September 20, 2017, in a rural location in the Ligonier area, not far from the Chestnut Ridge. The witness was in bed when she noticed a light outside the window during the early morning hours. There were no lights in that area of property. She got up and went to the window. Suspended in the air was an illuminated object about 6-7 feet from the window, and about 8-9 feet above the ground. The object was hovering and moved around a little from left to right.

The object was small and about the diameter of a silver dollar. The color of the object was described as yellowish and pale green. The light was steady, but did not glow brightly. It did not emit any light that reflected on the surrounding area. The object was not completely round, but appeared as a flattened circle and more egg shaped. On the left side there was a small section missing (a dark spot) kind of like a wedge

of a pie where no light was emitted from. No sound was heard. Source: Stan Gordon, "Stan Gordon's UFO Anomalies Zone" October 2, 2017.

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A TYPICAL FORTEAN EVENT – by Martin Piechota

The *Fortean Times* tells us that Charles Fort's pronouncement that "One measures a circle beginning anywhere" expresses his philosophy of continuity in which everything is in an immediate and transient state between extremes.

The above is a very good introduction to the event that will explain the event that seems like a story from Rod Serling's "Twilight Zone." The main character is a tree called a melaleuca, a genus of nearly 300 series of plants in the myrtle family. On the positive side, the tree is noted for its essential oil, which is both antifungal and antibiotic. The commercial product of this oil is called "Tea Tree Oil" and an industry has risen promoting its healing properties. Members of this genus can be found in ornamental gardens.

The broad-leaved paperback is the most damaging of 60 exotic species introduced to the Florida Everglades to help drain low-lying swampy areas. It has now become a serious invasive species, with damaging efforts including the displacement of native species, reduction of wildlife habitat, alteration of hydrology, modification of soil and changes in fire regimes. According to the Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce, the area of infestation in Florida has increased 50-fold over 25 years.

As Fort indicated, the species is in an immediate and transient state between extremes.

From April's 1988 issue of *Celebrity* comes the story of Ken and Nancy Marsell and their two children who were forced out of their home in Mildura in the Australian state of Victoria by a vengeful killer tree. Less than a week after Ken had tried unsuccessfully to cut down the thick and sturdy tree, it was struck of lightning, burning down the Marsell's house which was forty yards away. After they rebuilt, the tree reproduced into hundreds of little clones that choked out all other plant life. The family was forced to move.

Cedric Johns, Professor Botony at Melbourne University, said the tree must be the dreaded melaleuca, "the biggest pest in the plant kingdom." When ignited, it explodes, feeding the flames with a fuel contained in its leaves. At the same time it releases millions of seeds. The flowers cause violent allergic reactions to most people. The melaleuca reached one of the extremes in Fort's theory and entered the lives of an unsuspecting family and created an anomalous situation which is a one of a kind tale of horror.

UFO RETRO: STRANGE OBJECT IN PENNSYLVANIA

July 17, 1829 – Between 11 p.m. and midnight "a meteor of rather singular character" across from the neighborhood of the Schuylkill, passed over Kensington and the river Delaware, and disappeared behind the woods of Jersey.

"A long trail of light, like that of a shooting star was seen to follow it in the beginning of its ascension; large sparkles that separated themselves from it and descended slowly, were distinctly visible until hidden from view by the tops of the houses. Its motions were rapid, irregular, and wavering, like the fluttering of a kite or the rocking of an air balloon.

"Its appearance was of a deep red color, and remarkably brilliant, seemingly about half the size of the moon. It arose until it crossed the Delaware, when it appeared but an inconsiderable speck scarcely discernable, and then descended with astonishing velocity until within a short distance of the horizon, where it remained stationary for a few moments. "Suddenly it became exceedingly large and brilliant, sparkles again separated it from the main body, and descended as before. It soon after became dim and disappeared behind the trees. Altogether, I should suppose it was visible about fifteen or twenty minutes." Source: *Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania* July 18, 1829, via Martin Piechota.

THE FSD STAFF WISHES YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL THE BEST IN 2018